



News Release

Public Affairs and Corporate Communications Office
Space & Naval Warfare Systems Command
4301 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: 619-524-3470 Fax: 619-524-3469

For Immediate Release
October 13, 1998
News Release 1998-014

Navy F-9 Communication Satellite Scheduled to Launch Monday

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR STATION, Fla. - The U.S. Navy's ninth UHF Follow-On Communications satellite is scheduled to be launched by an industry and government team here Monday during a 120-minute launch window that opens at 3:11 a.m. EDT.

Lockheed Martin's International Launch Services of San Diego is launching the satellite for Hughes Space and Communications Company based in El Segundo, Calif. The launch vehicle, designated AC-130, is an Atlas IIA, which will place the approximately 7,066-lb UHF F/O F9 into an intermediate transfer orbit of 12,770 nautical miles or higher.

The UHF Follow-On communications satellite constellation is utilized to satisfy the Department of Defense requirements for Ultra High Frequency (UHF), Extremely High Frequency (EHF), and Global Broadcast Service (GBS) communications, providing fleet broadcast to all Navy ships and command control networks for selected aircraft, ships and submarines. Following Monday's launch and one scheduled for the Spring of 1999, the UHF Follow-On constellation will consist of eight modified 39-channel Hughes HS-601 satellites and one in-orbit spare. The UHF Follow-On satellites replace the Fleet Satellite Communications (FLTSATCOM) and the Hughes-built LeaSat spacecraft currently supporting the Navy's global communications network, serving ships at sea and a variety of other U.S. military fixed and mobile terminals. They are compatible with ground and sea-based terminals already in service.



UHF satellites F2 through F8 in orbit are operational. UHF F1 is functional, yet in an orbit which makes it unusable for its original purpose because of a launch vehicle failure. The satellites transmit to small, mobile, tactical terminals. Satellites F8, F9, and F10 carry a Global Broadcast Service payload. The GBS capability provides high-speed, wideband, simplex broadcast signals to the warfighter. This interim GBS package will revolutionize communications for the full range of the Defense Department's high-capacity requirements, from intelligence dissemination to quality-of-life programming.

The satellites are versions of the Hughes body-stabilized, three-axis HS 601 model. The spacecraft was introduced in 1987 to meet anticipated requirements for high-power, multiple-payload satellites for such applications as the UHF Follow-On, direct television broadcasting to very small terminals, private business networks, and mobile communications. Procurement of the commercially-produced satellite and communications systems helps the Defense Department meet its acquisition reform and commercial, off-the-shelf procurement goals.

News Media Advisory:

A Pre-Launch Press Conference is planned for Friday, October 16th in Cocoa Beach. Contact Julie Andrews at ILS: 619-645-6400 (San Diego), 407-730-5300, 5305 (Cape Canaveral AS). Accredited News Media Representatives who wish to attend the launch of the UHF Follow-On satellite launch from Cape Canaveral Air Station should contact the 45th Space Wing Public Affairs Office at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida at 407-494-5933.

For more information contact:

Richard Williamson in the Public Affairs and Corporate Communications Office of the Space & Naval Warfare Systems Command at 619-524-3432 (<http://www.spawar.navy.mil>)

Hughes Space and Communications Company: Communications and Customer Relations: (310) 364-6363

Lockheed Martin: Julie Andrews or Joan Underwood at International Launch Services - 619-645-6400 (San Diego Headquarters) or 407-730-5300/5305 (Cape Canaveral)

U.S. Air Force Space Command's 45th Space Wing Office of Public Affairs: Lt. Col. John Martin at 407-494-5933 (<http://www.pafb.af.mil/>)

Last update Thursday, December 07, 2000